

I is for Iowa

Partnerships in education build bridges between families, communities, and schools. As children interact with the people, places and things associated with the family, the immediate community, and beyond, they extend their horizons to develop the attitudes, skills, and knowledge they need to become effective citizens. The Primary Program: Growing and Learning in the Heartland @ 2001



Ideas for using the book:

I is for Iowa, provides a perfect opportunity to build partnerships with families and communities – those nearby and those in other parts of the state. This is a book to be shared and talked about with adults, older brothers and sisters or grandparents. Adults can read the book and discuss the illustrations with children. Some children will recognize familiar words in the book and there are lots of new words to hear.

These ideas are starting points for Kindergarten teachers who will be using the book this spring. We invite you to share your ideas with other Kindergarten teachers across the state. You can do so by sending an email with your idea or plan stated briefly. The suggestions will be compiled and sent back out to Kindergarten teachers from the Media Specialists at the AEAs. The suggestions will be compiled through the month of May.

Ideas to Share?

To submit an idea, send an email to: susan.andersen@ed.state.ia.us

1. Explore!

As children page through their books encourage them to talk about what they see and ask questions about pictures in the book.

What is on the title page?

What do you see on the backside of the title page?

What does the dedication page say?

What looks familiar? What looks interesting?

Have you ever seen some of the things in this book?

2. Investigate Resources.

- Identify locations that might be near the area where you live.
- List the locations in the book; send copies to parents asking if they have any information to share about the sites listed in the book.
- In a book that is to be left in the classroom, have the children create new pages with extra information about places that are in Iowa that are not in this book (M is for Missouri and Mississippi Rivers).
- With an older partner, check the State of Iowa web site for resources
- Check the city or school library for related information.

3. Extend opportunities to recognize and write letters of the alphabet and develop vocabulary.

- Bring an assortment of alphabet books to show how ABC books are written. Talk about how the books are alike and how they are different.
- Create your own classroom alphabet book about your own community (an example of this would be calling our book, "S is for Sioux City" and including such things as M is for Missouri River, G is for Grandview park, B is for the bandshell, etc.).
- If a city wide alphabet book is not possible, create a book about your own school such as "W is for Washington Elementary" and include things that are on the school property or within the immediate neighborhood (examples might include L is for library, O is for office, P is for principal).
- Use the book to discuss things in your own community
Can you find something for each letter of the alphabet?

4. Link reading, writing, and drawing to communicate.

- Make alphabet posters for the school and put them around the building to demonstrate kindergartner's knowledge of letter-sound associations. Children can work in cooperative groups to create their poster (example L is for Library with pictures drawn to depict the library)
- Design posters about growing up in Iowa.

5. Use maps, early mathematics and information gathering skills.

- Show children a map of Iowa as you are talking about the pictures in the book. Begin by showing where their hometown is.
- Create a map of the school. Post it for others to see.
- Make a map for next year's kindergarten class.
- Make pictures or symbols to go with special locations in the building. Place them on the map or around the perimeter with strings and pins to show the exact location.
- Estimate miles across the state. Estimate miles from place to place.
- Use a calculator with an older partner and add up the actual miles, using the map.
- Identify plants and animals that live and grow in this climate.
- Build a positive attitude toward the natural environment in the state.
- Make a graph of the number of children who have visited the locations in the book.
- Categorize the people, places and things in the book.

6. Select one page to focus a read-aloud or talk-aloud.

7. Encourage links to family experiences for the summer.

- Use the book as a keepsake for traveling to the areas of the state.
- Get a stamp, photo or signature to go with each page in the book.
- Start your own family scrapbook or alphabet book with your travels.
- Start a vacation file at home. Cut out pictures of places you would like to visit.

Here is a list of the people, places and things from the book:

I is for Iowa

	<u>Places</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Things</u>
A-	Amana		
B-		Black Hawk	
C-			Computer
D-	Dubuque		
E-			Eskimo Pie
F-	Dubuque		Fenelon Place Elevator
G-		Grant Wood	
H-	West Branch	Herbert Hoover	
I-	Indian Mounds Marquette		
J-	Adair county	Jesse James	
K-	Pella		Klokkenspel
L-	Living History Farm Des Moines		
M-			Maytag
N-	Newton		
O-	Old Capitol, Iowa City		
Q-	Quaker Oats, Cedar Rapids		
R-	McGregor	Ringling Brothers	Ringling Brothers Circus
S-	Burlington		Snake Alley
T-	Terrace Hill, Des Moines		Terrace Hill
U-			
V-	Nashua		Little Brown Church in the Vale
W-		Henry A. Wallace	
X-			X-Ray
Y-	Yellow River State Forest		
Z-	Pike's Peak State Park	Zebulon Pike	

